



**Utah Digital Health  
Service Commission**

# Sunset Review of the Digital Health Service Commission

Scott Barlow, Chair, Central Utah Clinics

Deb LaMarche, Former Chair, Utah Telehealth Network

Sarah Woolsey, M.D., Member, *HealthInsight*

For Health and Human Services Interim Committee

Utah Legislature

July 16, 2014



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

# DHSC Basics

2000 established as Utah Telehealth Commission (§26-9f)

- A governor-appointed citizen advisory body with senate confirmation

2004 changed its name to Digital Health Service Commission

The Utah Digital Health Service Commission's mission is

to *facilitate* and *promote* the adoption of the secure, effective and efficient exchange of electronic health data and services, as a means to reduce health care costs, enhance quality, increase access, and improve medical and public health services.



# Current Members:



**Deb LaMarche, Chair**  
Member uses telehealth in a public  
or private institution  
Utah Telehealth Network



**Jan Root, vice-Chair**  
Information technology professional  
involved in telehealth



**Scott Barlow**  
Telehealth consumer advocate  
Central Utah Medical Clinic



**Mark F. Dalley**  
Representative of a licensed  
health care facility



**Dennis Moser**  
Rural health consultant  
Utah Center for Rural  
Health  
Southern Utah University



**Marc Probst**  
Members uses telehealth in  
serving  
medically underserved  
population



**Chet Loftis**  
Representative of the health  
insurance industry Public Employee  
Health Program



**Henry Gardner**  
Telehealth Advocate  
Zion's Bank



**Nancy Stagg**  
Nursing Representing  
University of Utah



**Sarah Lynn Woolsey**  
Physician involved in  
telehealth  
HealthInsight

Image  
Not Available

**Craig C. Herzog**  
Non-physician health care provider involved in  
healthcare  
Department of Pharmacy  
University of Utah Hospital



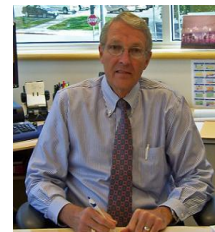
# Previous Members



**Joseph Cramer, M.D.**  
Physician involved in telehealth  
Cottonwood Pediatrics



**Brad LeBaron**  
Representative of a licensed health care facility  
Uintah Basin Medical Center



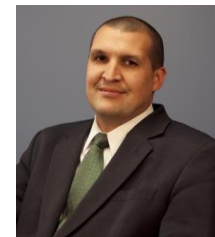
**Rulon Barlow**  
Telehealth Advocate



**Doug Hasbrouck**  
Physician Involved in Telehealth  
HealthInsight



**Natalie Gochnour**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce



**Wesley Smith**  
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce



**Mark Munger**  
Non-physician health care provider involved  
in telehealth  
University of Utah



# Legislation advised

- 2000 HB 72 Utah Telehealth Commission (Rep. David L. Hogue)
- 2004 HB 29 Utah Telehealth Commission Amendments [Name changed] (Rep. Brad L. Dee)
- 2008 HB 24 Amendments to Utah Digital Health Service Commission Act [add nursing rep. & informatics staffing (Rep. Ronda Menlove)
- 2008 HB 47 Standards for Electronic Exchange of Clinical Health Information [cHIE] (Rep. Ronda Menlove)
- 2009 HB 128 Electronic Prescribing Act (Rep. Ronda Menlove)
- 2010 HB 52 Health Reform – Uniform Electronic Standards – Insurance Information [Master Person Index] (Rep. Merlynn Newbold)
- 2012 HB 122 E-prescribing Amendments (Rep. Evan Vickers)
- 2012 HB 25 Patient Identity Validation [Master Person Index] (Rep. Stewart Barlow)
- 2012 HB 46 Electronic Personal Medical Records [cHIE enrollment] (Rep. Ronda Menlove)



# §26-9f-104 Duties and responsibilities

The commission shall:

- (1) advise and make recommendations on **digital health service** issues to the department and other state entities;
- (2) advise and make recommendations on digital health service related **patient privacy** to the department;
- (3) promote collaborative efforts to establish technical compatibility, **uniform policies**, and privacy features to meet legal, financial, commercial, and other societal requirements;
- (4) identify, address, and seek to resolve the legal, ethical, regulatory, financial, medical, and technological issues that may serve as **barriers** to digital health service;
- (5) explore and encourage the development of digital health service systems as a means of reducing health care costs and increasing health care quality and access, **with emphasis on assisting rural health care providers and special populations** with access to or development of electronic medical records;
- (6) seek **public input** on digital health service issues; and
- (7) in consultation with the department, advise the governor and Legislature on:
  - (a) the role of digital health service in the state;
  - (b) the policy issues related to digital health service;
  - (c) the **changing digital health service needs** and resources in the state; and
  - (d) state budgetary matters related to digital health service.



# Major Policy Contributions

- Facilitated the initial development of statewide telehealth capacity
- Advised 9 legislations since 2000
- Promoted statewide EHR adoption (2007-2009)
- Served as the oversight body for the statewide federal grants on Health Information Exchange (HIE) (2009-2014)
- Made formal policy recommendations to establish a statewide secure patient directory/Master Person Index (2011)
- Participated in organizing the Governor's Health Summit (2011)
- Made formal policy recommendations on enhancing privacy and security of protected health information in the State of Utah, through education, training, and technical assistance (2012)
- Co-chaired the SIM Grant's Planning for IT Initiatives (2013)
- Facilitated collaborations among telehealth, Beacon Communities, Meaningful Use, clinical Health Information Exchange, and various healthcare associations. (ongoing)





# Looking Forward

- Disseminate the recommendations on
  - The state's role in supporting statewide HIE
  - Support Meaningful Use in other settings and for value-based care
  - Improve digital health services for rural residents
  - Continue to improve privacy and security
- Oversee the statewide Master Person Index development
- Advise and consult on the State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant's IT Initiatives
- Guide implementation of e-Prescribing controlled substances





# Adverse Effect of Termination

If the Utah Digital Health Service Commission were terminated, the State of Utah would

**LOSE** a public policy advisory committee to bring broad perspectives and expertise into an open forum to obtain public input and develop consensus recommendations on

- Changing digital health service needs
- Monitoring patient privacy in digital health services
- Establishing technical compatibility and uniform policies
- Identifying barriers
- Assisting rural health care providers and special populations with access to EHR, cHIE or other statewide e-Health resources



# Differences between Telehealth and Digital Health Services

- Telehealth uses one specific technology to provide digital health services
- Digital health service is a broad term covering all types of electronic information technologies for health care, including Electronic Health Records, etc.
- Digital health is interchangeable with e-Health
- Digital Health Service Commission only addresses the issues not addressed by other public committees



# Additional Information

- Staff Support
  - Center for Health Data and Informatics, UDOH
- Meeting Frequency and Attendance
  - Six meetings per year
  - Always have a quorum for each meeting
  - Always have public audience in each meeting
- Budget Impact: Minimal
- Website

<http://health.utah.gov/phi/?formname=udhs>

